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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4302
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The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
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Dear Speaker Hastert:

I write to you regarding H.R. 4939, the emergency defense and hurricane supplemental appropriations bill. I too am disappointed by the out of control spending and lack of fiscal discipline by the U.S. Senate in increasing the bill from \$92 billion, which was passed by the House on March 16th, to its current level of \$109 billion. I am very disappointed that many non-emergency and non-defense or non-hurricane relief projects have made their way into this bill that threaten the important spending that this bill provides.

However, I hope you and the future conferees who are appointed to work out the differences in this bill consider the important work being performed for hurricane recovery for the state of Texas by Senator Hutchison. As you know, many Texas cities and towns opened their doors to evacuees after Hurricane Katrina made landfall even as Texas was bracing for devastation of her own in Hurricane Rita, which slammed into my 2nd Congressional district last September. Months later, Texans are still recovering and continuing to show their compassion by assisting evacuees.

Senator Hutchison's proposal to increase the federal share for FEMA reimbursements to Texas brings it in line with the federal share Louisiana received for Hurricane Rita. Many local communities in Southeast Texas were spending large amounts of money caring for Katrina evacuees and then turned right around and spent large amounts of money when Rita struck. Mr. Speaker, Texans should be rewarded for their generosity. While much of the work done by the Senate must be thrown out as being excessive, I greatly encourage you to work to add this important provision to the final conference report.

God and Texas,

TED POE
Member of Congress
TEXAS